



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS **DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL**
OFFICE OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND BUSINESS REGULATION

**DEPARTMENT OF
TELECOMMUNICATIONS & ENERGY**

ONE SOUTH STATION
BOSTON, MA 02110
(617) 305-3500

ARGEO PAUL CELLUCCI
GOVERNOR

JANE SWIFT
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

DANIEL A. GRABASKAS
DIRECTOR OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
AND BUSINESS REGULATION

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September 7, 1999

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FCC MAIL ROOM

Magalie Roman Salas, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Portals II, 445 12th Street SW, Suite TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

re: NSD-L-99-62, DA 99-1555, CC Docket 96-98
In the Matter of the Connecticut Department of Public Utility Control's Petition for
Delegation of Additional Authority

Dear Ms. Salas:

Enclosed for filing in the above matter please find one original and five copies of the
Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Energy's Comments in Support of
the Connecticut Department of Public Utility Control's Petition for Delegation of Additional
Authority. Kindly stamp one copy and return it to us in the enclosed self-addressed Federal
Express envelope. I have filed a copy of these comments electronically with the
Commission's ECFS service (proceeding number 96-98).

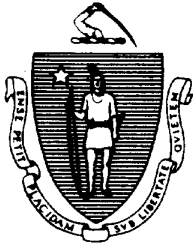
Sincerely,

Karlen J. Reed, Esq.

KJR/kr

Enc.

cc: MDTE Commission (w/enc.)
Paul G. Afonso, General Counsel, MDTE (w/enc.)
Attached Service List (w/enc.)



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
DEPARTMENT OF
TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

NSD-L-99-62
DA 99-1555
CC Docket 96-98

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FCC MAIL ROOM

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY'S
COMMENTS IN SUPPORT OF THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
UTILITY CONTROL'S PETITION FOR DELEGATION OF ADDITIONAL
AUTHORITY

Massachusetts Department of
Telecommunications and Energy

Janet Gail Besser, Chair
James Connelly, Commissioner
W. Robert Keating, Commissioner
Paul B. Vasington, Commissioner
Eugene J. Sullivan, Jr., Commissioner

One South Station, 2nd Floor
Boston, MA 02110
617-305-3500

Dated: September 7, 1999



Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

NSD-L-99-62
DA 99-1555
CC Docket 96-98

MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY'S
COMMENTS IN SUPPORT OF THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
UTILITY CONTROL'S PETITION FOR DELEGATION OF ADDITIONAL
AUTHORITY

In response to the Common Carrier Bureau ("Bureau") of the Federal Communications Commission's ("FCC" or "Commission") Public Notice released August 5, 1999, the Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Energy ("Department") respectfully submits these comments in support of the Connecticut Department of Public Utility Control ("CTDPUC") Petition for Delegation of Additional Authority ("Petition"). In its Petition, the CTDPUC seeks additional authority to (1) implement thousand block number pooling, (2) reclaim unused and reserved exchange codes, and (3) audit the use of number assignment and utilization requirements.

The Department supports the CTDPUC's Petition because granting the Petition will allow Connecticut to create innovative solutions tailored to the numbering issues that are particular to Connecticut's circumstances.

I. BACKGROUND

On September 28, 1998, the Commission issued a Memorandum Opinion and Order which outlined state commission authority to order the implementation of exchange code

conservation methods. In the Matter of Petition for Declaratory Ruling and Request for Expedited Action on the July 15, 1997 Order of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission Regarding Area Codes 312, 610, 215, and 717; Implementation of the Local Competition Provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, CC Docket No. 96-98, FCC 98-224, NSD File No. L-97-42 (published November 16, 1998, Fed. Reg., 13 FCC Rcd. 19009) ("Pennsylvania Opinion"). Several petitions for reconsideration, such as the Department's petition filed October 28, 1998,¹ are currently being considered by the Commission, as are comments and reply comments received from the Commission's May 27, 1999, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on numbering issues.²

On July 28, 1999, the CTDPUC filed its Petition as part of its ongoing area code relief docket to manage the assignment of Connecticut phone numbers (Petition at 2-3). On August 5, 1999, the Commission released its public notice seeking comment on the issues presented in the CTDPUC Petition.³ Connecticut joins Massachusetts, New York, Maine, Florida, California, Texas, and Wisconsin in having filed petitions with the Commission for

¹ The Department filed a Petition for Reconsideration of the FCC's September 28, 1998 Opinion, on October 28, 1998, NSD-L-97-42, CC Docket 96-98.

² On May 27, 1999, the Commission adopted a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking ("May 27, 1999 NPRM") to consider measures intended to increase the efficiency with which telecommunications carriers use telephone numbers. Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 99-122 (released May 27, 1999).

³ FCC Public Notice - "Common Carrier Bureau Seeks Comment on the Connecticut Department of Public Utility Control's Petition for Delegation of Additional Authority to Implement Number Conservation Measures (NSD File No. L-99-62, DA 99-1555, CC Docket 96-98)."

additional authority to implement code conservation measures.⁴

II. DISCUSSION

The FCC has encouraged state commissions to develop creative and innovative solutions to numbering issues (Pennsylvania Opinion at ¶¶ 30-31). The petitions of Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, Maine, Florida, California, Texas and Wisconsin are the first steps in developing such solutions. The Department supports the CTDPU's Petitions because the CTDPU's proposed code conservation measures offer significant opportunities to relieve the pressures of premature exchange code exhaust confronting Connecticut.

The Department has presented its supporting views on the code conservation

⁴ The Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Energy filed a Petition for Waiver of Section 52.19 to Implement Various Area Code Conservation Methods in the 508, 617, 781, and 978 Area Codes on February 17, 1999 (FCC Public Notice DA 99-461, NSD-L-99-19, released March 5, 1999). The New York State Department of Public Service filed a Petition for Additional Delegated Authority to Implement Number Conservation Measures on February 19, 1999 (FCC Public Notice DA 99-462, NSD-L-99-21, released March 5, 1999). The Maine Public Utilities Commission filed a Petition for Additional Delegated Authority to Implement Number Conservation Measures on March 17, 1999 (FCC Public Notice DA 99-638, NSD-L-99-27, released April 1, 1999). The California Public Utilities Commission filed a Request for Delegation of Additional Authority Pertaining to Area Code Relief and to NXX Code Conservation Measures (FCC Public Notice NSD-L-98-136, released May 14, 1999) and a Petition for a Waiver to Implement a Technology-Specific or Service-Specific Area Code (NSD-L-99-36, CC Docket 96-98, released May 14, 1999). The Public Utility Commission of Texas filed a Petition for Expedited Decision for Delegation of Authority to Implement Number Conservation Measures on July 2, 1999 (FCC Public Notice DA 99-1380, NSD-L-99-55, released July 14, 1999). The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin filed a Petition for Additional Delegated Authority to Implement Number Conservation Measures on August 5, 1999 (FCC Public Notice DA 99-1606, NSD-L-99-64, released August 12, 1999).

methods enumerated by the CTDPUc in comments and reply comments filed by the Department on various state code conservation petitions.⁵ The Department will not repeat those arguments. The Department, however, draws the Commission's specific attention to the CTDPUc's statement that its Petition is intended to slow the exhaust of the new area codes that will be introduced when the 860 and 203 NPAs are exhausted (Petition at 5). Unfortunately, it appears that the CTDPUc's efforts are not enough to prevent area code exhaust and that the Commission's ruling in its NPRM will not come in time to save Connecticut's existing area codes. This is a potential fate that the Department and other state commissions are attempting to avoid through their respective area code conservation dockets, relief dockets, and FCC petitions. Prompt action delegating authority, including number pooling, to states like Connecticut and Massachusetts, is the best assistance the Commission can give to state commissions faced with the ordeal of implementing new area codes.

III. CONCLUSION

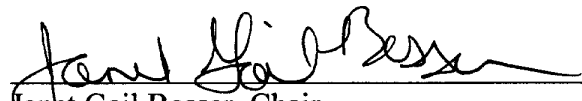
The Department supports the CTDPUc's Petition and the efforts of the CTDPUc to address its numbering issues with several well-chosen code conservation methods. The Commission should delegate to the CTDPUc the requested additional authority as set forth in the Petition. The CTDPUc Petition presents useful, creative, and innovative proposals on

⁵ See MDTE Comments filed on the petitions enumerated in fns. 2 and 4, supra.

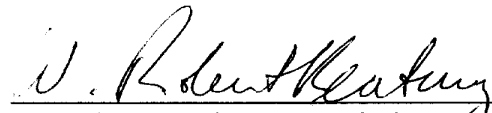
code conservation for the Commission's consideration. For the foregoing reasons, we support the Petition for Delegation of Additional Authority filed by the Connecticut Department of Public Utility Control on July 28, 1999.

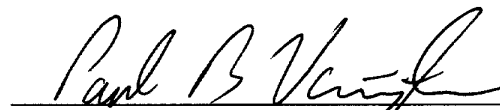
Respectfully submitted,
Massachusetts Department of
Telecommunications and Energy

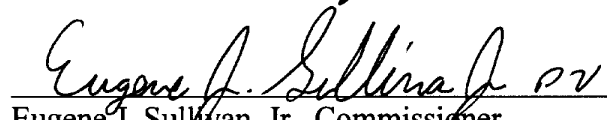
By:


Janet Gail Besser, Chair


James Connelly, Commissioner


W. Robert Keating, Commissioner


Paul B. Vasington, Commissioner


Eugene J. Sullivan, Jr., Commissioner

One South Station, 2nd Floor
Boston, MA 02110
617-305-3500

Before The
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20054

)	
In the Matter of the Connecticut Department of)	
Public Utility Control's Petition for Delegation of)	NSD-L-99-62,
Additional Authority)	CC Docket 96-98
)	

SERVICE LIST

Al McCloud (2 copies)
Network Services Division
Common Carrier Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
Portals II, 445 12th Street, SW
Room 6A-320
Washington, DC 20554

Yog R. Varma
Deputy Chief, Network Services Division
Common Carrier Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
Portals II, 445 12th Street, SW, Room C-345
Washington, DC 20554

Anna Gomez
Chief, Network Services Division
Common Carrier Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
Portals II, 445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Lawrence E. Strickling, Chief
Common Carrier Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
Portals II, 445 12th S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Blaise Scinto, Network Services Division
Common Carrier Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
Portals II, 455 12th Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Jared Carlson, Network Services Division
Common Carrier Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
Portals II, 445 12th Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Network Services Division Reference Center
Portals II, 445 12th Street, S.W.
Suite CY-A257
Washington, DC 20554

International Transcription Service
1231 20th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20036

Helen M. Mickiewicz, Esq.
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Peter Pescosolido
Connecticut Department of Public Utility Control
Ten Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

Jack R. Goldberg, Commissioner
Connecticut Department of Public Utility Control
Ten Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

Joe Garcia, Chairman
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Levent Ileri
Division of Communications
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Cynthia B. Miller, Esq.
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Trina M. Bragdon, Esq.
Maine Public Utilities Commission
242 State Street
Augusta, ME 04333

Nancy Brockway, Commissioner
New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission
8 Old Suncook Road
Concord, NH 03301-7319

Christopher Hanifin, Esq.
New York State Department of Public Service, 17th Floor
Three Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12223-1350

David E. Screven, Esq.
Assistant Counsel
Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission
PO Box 3265
Harrisburg, PA 17105

Philip F. McClelland, Esq.
Assistant Consumer Advocate
Office of Consumer Advocate
Office of Attorney General
555 Walnut Street, 5th Floor, Forum Place
Harrisburg, PA 17101-1923

Todd Kimbrough
Telecommunications Division
Public Utility Commission of Texas
1701 N. Congress Avenue
PO Box 13326
Austin, TX 78711-3326

Michael H. Dworkin, Chairman
Vermont Public Services Board
112 State Street (Chittenden Bank Building), Drawer 20
Montpelier, VT 05620-2701

Gary A. Evenson
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
610 North Whitney Way
PO Box 7854
Madison, WI 53707-7854

J. Bradford Ramsay, Esq.
NARUC
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 603
Washington, DC 20004

George Dean, Chief
Regulated Industries Division
Public Protection Bureau
Office of the Attorney General
200 Portland Street, 4th floor
Boston, MA 02114

Wayne Milby
Lockheed Martin CIS
1133 15th Street NW
Washington, DC 20006

Cheryl Tritt, Esq.
Morrison & Foerester
2000 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20006

Barbara Anne Sousa, Esq.
Bell Atlantic-Massachusetts
185 Franklin St., Room 1403
Boston, MA 02110

Kenneth W. Salinger, Esq.
Palmer & Dodge LLP
One Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02108

Kenneth Ira Spigle, Esq.
Rosenberg, Freedman & Goldstein
246 Walnut Street
Newton, MA 02460

Elizabeth McJimsey, Esq.
Sprint Spectrum L.P. d/b/a Sprint PCS
4900 Main Street, 12th Floor
Kansas City, MO 64112

Ellen Schmidt, Esq.
Counsel, Director of Reg. Affairs
MediaOne Telecommunications of Massachusetts, Inc.
6 Campanelli Drive
Andover, MA 01890

Nathan T. Foose, Esq.
Martin Rothfelder, Esq.
The Rothfelder Law Offices
625 Central Avenue
Westfield, NJ 07090

Robert Shapiro, Esq.
Maribeth Ladd, Esq.
Rubin & Rudman, LLP
50 Rowes Wharf
Boston, MA 02110-3319

Michael Adams, Esq.
Benjamin Dickens, Jr., Esq.
Blooston, Mordkofsky, Jackson & Dickens
2120 L Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037

Harvey C. Kaish, Esq.
Teresa Moore, Esq.
McCarter & English
Four Gateway Center, P.O. Box 652
Newark, NJ 07101

Curtis L. Groves, Esq.
Hope H. Barbulescu, Esq.
MCI WorldCom
5 International Drive
Rye Brook, NY 10573-1095

Alan D. Mandl, Esq.
Ottenberg, Dunkless, Mandl & Mandl
260 Franklin Street, Suite 1880
Boston, MA 02110

Russell M. Blau, Esq.
Richard M. Rindler, Esq.
Kathleen L. Greenan, Esq.
Morton J. Posner, Esq.
Swidler Berlin Shereff Friedman, LLP
3000 K Street, NW Suite 300
Washington, DC 20007

Cathy Thurston, Esq.
State Regulatory Affairs/East
Sprint Communications Company, LP
1850 M Street, NW, Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20036

Matthew H. Berns, Esq.
Focal Communications Corporation
200 North LaSalle Street
Chicago, IL 60601

John O. Postl, Esq.
William J. Rooney, Jr., Esq.
Global Naps, Inc.
10 Merrymount Road
Quincy, MA 02169

Scott Sawyer, Esq.
NEVD of Massachusetts, LLC
222 Richmond Street, Suite 206
Providence, RI 02903

Eric J. Krathwohl, Esq.
Rich, May, Bilodeau & Flaherty, P.C.
294 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02108

Jordan Michael, Esq.
CTC Communications Corp.
360 Second Avenue
Waltham, MA 02154